

Norn's Marriage

Chapter 1 – Norn's Marriage Part 1

Part 1

It's been several months since the conclusion of the battle of the Biheiril Kingdom.

Since then, Hitogami has stayed silent, and the days went by without any enemy presence.

That said, what I have to do hasn't changed.

To prepare for Laplace's revival in 80 years, I've been silently moving around, making various arrangements.

But lately, I've been home a lot.

Because both Eris and Roxy got pregnant at the same time.

It has to be because I let loose after Gisu was defeated.

And my disorderly daily life was the result.

Of course, the result itself is something joyous.

But during pregnancy, their fates are weakened and they are easier targets for Hitogami.

I would also like to spend as much time as possible with my wives during their pregnancy.

And so, for the first time in a while, family time has continued.

By organising the information gathered by the Mercenary Groups established in various places, regular meetings were held where Orsted went through the information to determine our future course of action.

On one of those days...

On that day, together with Orsted, we were going over the information on the next country that I would be visiting.

The next king of that country was still young but he was already a remarkable figure, and I was supposed to approach him with the intention of taking advantage of him.

Orsted didn't say what would cause the next king to fall, he kept silent. He probably has some reason. Is the person that would cause that King's fall not in the current loop?

Originally, we were supposed to meet him later on, at this point, is there any surefire way to topple him?

And so, how should I move?

Orsted said he'd look at his memo relating to him and think of a method.

And that was when it happened.

"Let Norn Greyrat get married."

"Wha.....?"

Sudden.

Orsted suddenly broke the silence by saying something insane.

I, who am normally very careful about my words around Orsted, almost unintentionally leaked out the line: "The hell you saying all of a sudden?"

Right now, we were thinking about how we would cause this remarkable figure to fall.

There was no logical link at all.

Is what I thought.

But no, maybe there wasn't absolutely no link.

There was one possible answer.

"...A political marriage?"

Going by the flow of the conversation, to cause the remarkable figure to fall... that's what we would do.

"Not as a political maneuver, I was thinking about the future."

Nevertheless, it is a painful topic.

Orsted had decided that I would move towards this man with the intention of having him win her heart.

Well that's fine for now.

It's not as if I don't have confidence in this person.

I just don't believe that this remarkable man of lineage could win her heart.

The man is a womanizer on the level of Paul, if we can't find a woman to allot to him, I would have to consent to Orsted's suggestion.

That said.

Norn is out of the question.

Norn will eventually get married.

But, Paul was a peerless womanizer, handing Norn over to the same kind of man is no good.

Norn's partner would need to be someone more sincere.

And somebody that I can accept.

I won't hand Norn over to some useless nobody.

I wouldn't be able to face Paul.

No matter how noble their objective, I will not forgive those who use and discard their family.

"Not like that."

"Then what did you mean?"

"I am indebted to Norn Greyrat's child."

"Debt...? So it's not Norn that you are interested in, but her child, whom you have business with?"

"It's not business. In this loop, it's not all that important."

It was not a very pertinent conversation.

Not being able to read Orsted's true intentions was not a new thing.

But up until now, I've at least been able to determine what he was trying to do.

Groundwork for the future.

Norn's child isn't important, but because in a previous loop he/she was useful, he would like to set the groundwork.

"I understand."

I stood up.

He looked up at me while sitting.

He's not currently wearing his helmet. His face is scary as always but, but I'm sure right now it's even more frightening.

"If it must be so by all means, would it be permissible to meet at noon in the forest to the north of here in three days time?"

Norn, rest easy.

I will protect your chastity,

Even if the opponent is Orsted, I will not pull back a single step.

So Paul... lend me your strength.

I ask you for the power to overcome this mighty enemy and return home alive.

"Wait. You are misunderstanding something."

"Misunderstanding?"

"During the countless 200 years I have repeated, I have become attached to certain persons' existences.

Norn Greyrat's child is one such existence.

She has helped me on countless occasions, I am indebted to her.

Therefore, if it is possible, I would like to meet her in this lifetime.

Because as it is, it will not happen."

It's true that there's no male presence around Norn.

That didn't change even after her graduation.

She has her family, but she isn't jobless.

On the recommendation of the school, she entered the Magic Guild and is now working at the main office.

She is what you would call an "Office Lady."

There are a considerable number of men in the Magic Guild.
But there is no male presence around Norn.
She doesn't go out on her days off and spends all her time at home helping out by looking after the kids or doing housework.
Even during her schooldays, she had no one special that she associated with.
I thought Norn would eventually but, honestly, if it goes on this way, it seems like she might spend her whole life without getting married.

“...”

In this world, for those of certain positions, arranged marriages are a common practice.
It may be half-hearted, but I am technically a man of notable position with both influence and connections.
With that being the case, this development isn't all that odd.

“...No, a child isn't something you can make on your own.
The same person couldn't be born no matter who the partner is.”

The King of a country would have a high enough standing.
But I do not intend to acknowledge it.
Until I see it with my own eyes, and confirm what kind of person they are.

“That aside, was this remarkable figure originally Norn's partner?”

While I was thinking that, Orsted scrunched his face up in confusion and raised his eyebrows.
As always his face is scary.

But I remember this face, it's the “The hell you saying all of a sudden” face.
He opened his mouth and his suppressed eyebrows moved.

“No... Sorry. That has nothing to do with this.”

"Huh?"

"This is a different story."

A different story...

Then it's that.

"It's not about conquering the next kingdom? You were simply saying to let Norn get married at the time of her choosing?"

"That's how it is."

Right.

I get it now, that makes sense.

"Orsted-sama."

"Yes?"

"When you are changing the subject of the conversation, please say something along the lines of 'I'm changing the subject of the conversation.' or 'That aside,', it would be good for you to preface such conversations like this."

"Right. I'll be more careful next time."

After putting everything back in place, I sat back down.

Part 2

After I pulled myself together, the conversation continued.

"So, just who was Norn's partner?"

Norn married this person each and every time, didn't she?"

"Yes, as far as I know, Norn's partner is predetermined."

Norn's fated partner.

What a lucky guy.

Simply by existing, to have the good fortune of being able to marry Norn.

If he spends his days lazing around, I'll kidnap him and fix it.

Spartan training.

From dawn till dusk, I'll force it into him.

Until his body can say nothing but, 'Yes', 'Absolutely' and "Thank you very much, cheating will not be tolerated.

The condition will be, let's see... If he would like to become Norn's partner, he would at least have to be able to stay conscious after taking a punch from Eris.

"It's Ruijerd Supardia."

My thoughts stopped.

Inside my head, I remembered the face of a bald warrior who had lived for over 500 years.

No, he's not bald anymore.

He is a respectable man with a with splendid green hair.

"Their child is the last warrior of the supard race.

Continuing the will of Ruijerd after he had fallen to the plague, reclaiming the Supard's honour by joining the humans side in the fight against Laplace and delivering the final blow.

It was a huge burden that anybody would recognize...

But this time around, the Supard race remains in large numbers.

That child will most likely not have to be burdened with this duty."

While I was still arranging my thoughts, Orsted finished his explanation.

He was probably remembering that child's whole life.

If she defeated Laplace, that means that she most likely co-operated with Orsted.

Which means, right, for Orsted to make this kind of proposal, I do understand it.

"..."

But, well.

This time is different

I'm here, there was also the Teleport Incident.
I don't know how Ruijerd and Norn got to know each other in the other loops,
But there is no mistake that this is a love story that Orsted is well aware of.
If I were to suddenly approach Norn with talks of marriage she would most likely just turn me down.
After all, he's 500 years old.
Ruijerd would probably be bewildered too.

Having Ruijerd as a relative definately wouldn't be a bad thing.
But this definitely isn't something for me to decide.
Umu.

"...I think that Norn's feeling are the most important."
"That's right. There's no need to rush."

Orsted said that and nodded in agreement.

Part 3

After that, I had Orsted tell me Norn's story from the previous loops.

In a world without me, it seems Norn became an adventurer.
She sang songs and wrote stories while adventuring; a singing, dancing, fighting, minstrel. She formed a party with those of similar interests, and journeyed towards the northern continent.
Although neither her swordsmanship nor her magic were, by any means, outstanding.
By adventurer standards she was at best a B grade.
And so, during a certain request, her party was annihilated by a demonic creature.
Norn was also on the verge of death.

What appeared then was our Ruijerd.

He beat down the approaching demonic creature and freed Norn from her predicament.

And to Norn, Ruijerd was love at first sight.

And from then on, she accompanied Ruijerd on his journey to find the Supard race, and slowly began her attack.

Apparently Ruijerd ignored her advances at first, but after he discovered that the Supard race had been wiped out by a plague, he fell into despair. Norn devoted herself to comforting the anguished Ruijerd, he was moved by her affection, and the two got married.

The two of them began their life together in a corner of the Biheilil kingdom.

And during that time, while Norn was pregnant with their child, Ruijerd fell sick with the same illness that struck the Supard race and died.

Norn, now alone, took upon herself, the responsibility of raising the child, and eventually her life came to an end.

I thought it sounded like a lonely end, but according to Orsted, Norn looked satisfied on her deathbed.

It was an unexpected and unlikely love story, but with the two of them, nothing would be strange.

That said, I wonder how Norn and Ruijerd would get together without such a chain of events.

Would Norn be happy, being paired with somebody she didn't love?

Would Ruijerd accept?

“...”

Well, there's no point to me toiling over it alone.

What's important are Norn's feelings.

There may be no male presence around Norn, but she is at that age.

She's got to have a man or two she likes, having been in a relationship or two wouldn't be odd.

No, it may just be that I don't know, she may already have herself a man.

And one day, all of a sudden, she might bring a man to the house and he would ask me “Father-in-law, please give your daughter to me”.

And then I would reply “Who’s this ‘Father-in-law”.

And then: “I am ‘brother-in-law’”...

I got sidetracked.

Anyhow, I must first hear Norn’s feelings.

At these times, I get the feeling that this isn’t something I should hear.

I also don’t think it’s something that Norn would tell me.

A woman would be better.

But Aisha is no good.

I feel like if Aisha hears this it’ll turn into something bad.

Which means, it would have to be Sylphy or maybe Roxy.

Norn seems to respect Roxy in particular, Roxy would be good.

On the subject of admiration, Eris would also be good.

Eris had been teaching Norn the sword for quite a while.

Ever since Norn graduated, she’s been going jogging and doing practice swings with Eris every morning.

It’s clear to see that Norn looks up to her.

But with Eris’s commando personality, telling her to “Ask indirectly” would be impossible.

It would have to be Roxy.

No wait, Someone with a high skill level at “Asking indirectly” would be Sylphy.

She looks up to Sylphy in a slightly different sense than admiration, but at the very least, she does recognise that she’s the most important member of the household.

No, I should probably discuss it with all three present.

Four with me included, and we can decide who would be most suited.

It would be good to hear Sylphy and Roxy’s opinions.

Wait, wait, not just the three of them, would it be better to bring Lillia and Zenith in on it too?

“...”

I was sitting on the living room sofa, thinking about it by myself when...
Into my field of vision jumped a single woman.

“Ah.”

It's Norn.

Norn walked into the Living room.

“Nii-san, I'm home.”

“...Welcome back.”

When you take a good look, all said, Norn is actually quite the beauty.
She looks a lot like Zenith when she was young.
Her breasts are large and she's got silky blonde hair.
Even at school she was popular.

“...What is it?”

“No... Ah, Norn, you want some tea?”

“I'll have some.”

I took a cup from the table and poured out some black tea and handed it to her.

Norn took the cup and looked puzzled.

“...It's cold now.”

“Eeh!”

Even though I just had Lillia brew it?

I thought that and touched the teapot, and it was indeed cold.

The cup in my hand was also cold.

I wonder what happened.

Are we under some kind of attack!?

“...Huh? Norn, that reminds me, don't you have work today?”

"I just got home from there now."

I took a look out the window and it was already evening.

After I returned from my meeting with Orsted and had Lillia brew me some tea, it was early afternoon, which means that around two hours have passed.

"Ah, sorry, it seems I spaced out."

"Please save the spacing out for when you're older... I'll go make some fresh tea. You wait here."

"...Huh? Is no one else here?"

Until a little while ago, Sylphy and Eris were still here.

And Roxy should also be home around this time.

"I walked past Sylphy-Neesan and Eris-Neesan on my way home, they were taking the kids for a walk. Lillia-san was shopping."

"...Aisha?"

"I don't know. Wouldn't she probably still be with the mercenary group?"

As she said that, Norn walked into the kitchen with the Teapot.

But is that right, nobody else is here.

It's just Norn and I...

Couldn't this be called some kind of perfect situation.

Hm.

Avoid a roundabout wordy conversation and tell her to her face.

And if that should fail, I'll try something else.

That would be the option most faithful to Norn.

Hmm. Hmm.

Talking to her only after I had removed all the obstacles, Norn wouldn't like that.

After all, it's her that's getting married.
I'll hear it from Norn first.

"Here you go."
"Thanks."

As I thought that, Norn had returned and placed a teacup in front of me.
I sat right in front of Norn and drank from the cup.

"You've gotten quite good at making tea."
"I learnt it in school after all."
"Not from Lillia-san?"
"Lillia-san... probably wouldn't teach me."

Rather than not teaching you, she'd most likely tell you to 'Let me do it'.

"If you asked, I think she'd still teach you."
"Probably, but they had a class at school, so I thought I might as well learn it there. Also, there aren't many opportunities to make tea at home, but there are plenty at school."
"That's true."

Like at the student council and in her dorm room.
Maybe even at work.
Well, it's just something Norn decided herself.

"..."

We're having a casual conversation to warm up to the topic, but I would like to cut right to it.
What should I say.
What do I talk about.

"Ah-... Ahem...."
"..."

I cleared my throat and Norn gave me a puzzled look.

“...Is there something missing?”

“No, not that, hmm. The tea is good.”

I said that and took another sip of the steaming tea.

It wasn't particularly great, but at the same time it's not bad enough to spit out.

It's very Norn-like, mediocre tea.

Good, but not skilled, that kind of feeling.

In other words, it's good.

That aside...

“Lately, Norn, recently... How's it been?”

“How what been?”

“Hmm, for instance, how about work?”

“Everything's normal. While being taught by my senpai, I've been doing the jobs I'm capable of. But, I'm sure if it was Aisha, she'd be far better than me.”

“Stop comparing yourself to Aisha.”

I said that and Norn nodded.

Aisha does a different kind of work.

You shouldn't compare yourself to someone doing a different job.

“And, your senpai... are they that? Are they cool?”

“They're super pretty. You've talked to them once before as well Nii-san.

When I was the student council president, they was the vice-president.”

“...That tough beast race one?”

“Not him, the girl.”

Right, the woman.

I get it.

I don't remember her name, but there was definitely someone like that.

Now that I think about it, when she was looking for a job, I remember having a conversation like that.

Like that they had entered the same department.

"Right, a girl... I wonder if there are any male senpai?"

"There are."

"Those male senpai... Are there any good looking ones?"

"There are some good looking ones, and some who aren't as well."

There seems to be someone cool.

That's important.

"Nii-san, what have you been wanting to say?"

"Calm down Norn. Don't jump to any conclusions."

"It looks like you're the one that need to calm down."

I am calm.

I'm always, Cool, Clever and Clean.

Rudeus of the three C's.

Never Crazy, that word is not in there.

"So, Norn... Ahem, Say, if, um, do you think, this cool person, is, uh, cool?"

"You're wondering if I like him?"

"Do you like him?"

Ahh, dammit.

I suddenly jumped straight to the point.

"I don't particularly like him."

Hey, mama yo!

"Then do you have somebody you like?"

".....There is."

There is!

She answered, now, in the flow of the conversation!

She answered me honestly.

She gave me an answer.

"Yes, right! There is, well you're at that age. So there is someone, there's nothing odd about that. Yes."

"But you were most definitely odd just then."

"What are you saying."

There's nothing odd about me.

What's odd is this world.

This world is wrong. Don't you agree.

"So, what kind of person are they? The person you like."

"...He's older."

"Hmm."

"And reliable."

"MmmHmm."

"And he's always looking out for me."

He fulfils all three conditions.

"Could it be me?"

"Are you half-asleep?"

I'm sorry.

I got ahead of myself.

"He's far older than you, Nii-san, and even in this situation he would be calm; he is a composed man of presence."

"You know, your brother, recently, hasn't been getting flustered at all."

"Please remember your manner from a few minutes ago."

Grrr...

But, hmm, far older than me, a man of presence. Dammit.

"Far older... Is that more than 10 years?"

"Even more."

"...I didn't expect you to be into old men."

"To say I'm 'into old men'... Well I will admit that I like men older than me."

Even more would be more than 20 years older than me.

Meaning 40 or 50 years old.

And on top of that, having a presence, he might be rather plump.

A lower centre of gravity would cause a sense of stability and presence.

"..."

The corrupt head of some trading company or some sly greasy old man, was the image that floated into my mind.

I don't intend to criticise because of an age difference, but I can only see this man as some kind of sugar daddy.

I won't acknowledge it, I definitely won't acknowledge something like that.

But if this greasy old man turns out to be surprisingly sincere... Then the age difference is of no concern.

You can't judge a book by its cover.

"But I understand that it's a love that is not meant to be."

"Not meant to be... Is he married?"

"No... His wife is already gone..."

She's already dead.

Or perhaps divorced.

It's possible that he simply had a letter of divorce thrust before him.

Wait, I seem to have gotten forcefully sidetracked, what if...

"But apparently, I'm quite similar to his dead wife."

Aah, then I'm definitely wrong.

I would have to be wrong.

That man wouldn't say such a thing.

"That's a pretty cliché pick-up line."

To get a hold of someone much younger than you, saying that 'you're similar to my wife', of course it's a cliché pick-up line.

It brings in the possibility of marriage.

No, wait, now that I think about it, it doesn't sound like a pick-up line.

You're completely different to my wife, this is the first time I've met someone like you, something like that sounds much closer to a pick-up line.

"Eeh... I'm being picked up?"

Norn's brought her hands to her cheeks they became somewhat red.

She's happy about being picked up.

Right, it's not the other party, Norn is the one that likes him.

But there's still the possibility that Norn is being tricked.

But I'm sure that if I said that to Norn right now it'd start a fight, so I won't.

"Anyway, why did you ask something like that so suddenly?"

"Eh? No, umm."

"You must have some kind of reason."

Norn began to scowl at me.

She's talked with me honestly until now, so I should also answer

honestly, is the kind of face she's giving me right now.

I didn't think you'd talk with me honestly to this point.

But I just wanted to confirm if she had someone that she likes.

"...It might be awkward to say this after the conversation we just had."

"Yes."

Norn, who had been leant forward until now, sat back slightly.

"The truth is Norn, talk about your engagement has come up."

After hearing that, Norn froze for several seconds.

Eye's wide open and mouth turned down at the corners.

She carefully examined me.

"A marriage proposal... I understand. I'll accept it."

"No, I get it. Don't say any more, let's pretend this conversation never happened."

"No, like I said, I'll accept."

I looked at Norn.

She looked quite suspicious of me if I do say so myself.

"...Don't you have someone you like?"

"That's fine. It's a love that can't be after all.

I'm not a noble, but since Nii-san is in some kind of position of nobility, I thought this kind of conversation would happen eventually, I've heard it from people I know as well.

From when I heard that you were making connections with other countries, I assumed I would be used this way."

"Don't say things like being used. I have no intention of using my family like tools."

In response to my rather strong tone, Norn was taken aback and apologised.

"Right... I'm sorry."

She's an honest girl.

"Norn, if you say you don't like it, we can forget this conversation happened."

"No... I'm not particularly against it. The fact that you'd even bring the conversation to me means that they're definitely not someone I'd hate, right?."

"Well, yeah."

I don't think he's someone you'd hate...

After the battle at the Biheilil Kingdom the two seemed to get along.

No matter where he is, Ruijerd is an sincere man.

Well, I still haven't gotten Ruijerd's acknowledgement yet.

But he probably wouldn't object.

"But... Hmm. It's not as if I absolutely want to get married, but it's not as if I don't either.

If you say that it's ok then I would like to take you up on your offer of ignoring this talk.

But if you insist, I wouldn't mind continuing the conversation."

Norn said that and averted her eyes.

Like I thought, she doesn't particularly want to get married.

It's only that she'd do what I say.

That may be something good for me, but for Norn, it's not.

"No, I haven't even talked to the other party. So It's alright."

"Is that right... Thank you very much."

If Norn says that, Orsted probably won't be too happy about it.

"...Ahh, by the way, what kind of person were they? The king of some country? Some Asuran Noble?"

"They aren't Royalty or Nobility... It's somebody you know."

"Somebody I know...? Aah, Was it Zanoba-senpai by any chance?"

"I don't think that guy would be interested in marriage."

Zanoba is something else.

He exuberates such a lovey dovey atmosphere around Juli but he doesn't seem to be getting any closer to Ginger.

He probably intends to remain married to his dolls for life.

"It's Ruijerd."

I told her the name of the partner.

“...”

By the time I had realised, Norn had placed her hands on the table and bent forward.

She had a serious face.

Her face was red and she seemed angry.

I wonder if I hurt her feelings.

Norn looks up to Ruijerd with respect, but as I thought, it's not like that. Yeah. Sorry, Nii-san was mistaken.

“We-well, of course it's a no. Putting aside the difference in race, the age gap is just too big, even you—”

“Nii-san! Please proceed with that engagement!”

Norn cut off my words, without concealing the excitement and joy from her voice.

Part 4

After all that.

Or should I say, as expected.

It seems the person Norn liked was Ruijerd.

She had looked up to him ever since she was little.

That admiration from childhood eventually grew into love, and the incident in the Biheilil Kingdom re-awoke it.

I like this person.

But after hearing about his past, she was convinced that she couldn't be with him, and decided to hide her feelings.

“I understand leave it to your Onii-chan.”

After hearing all that, I hit my chest.



Author Q&A

Q: Before you said it would be 1-2 chapter in a month and now it's 2 in one day!

You always exceed expectations. Magonote-san salute!

A: Although for now, the first three chapters are just Norn's story.

After that's over it'll be around another month.

I return you're salute.

Q: Returning to the 「In a Sense」

I have waited.

A: Rather than a return, I would like you to think of it as an end-game event.

Q: Guehehe... Marraige?

Onii-chan will always support you!

Becoming a bride is unthinkable!

Is what I had thought..._(┐ 「ε:」_

A: To begin with, Rudeus is also a married person.

Q: Is such an older brother alright?

I have a bad feeling lol

A feeling of fruitless effort...!

It's a problem, Rudeus doesn't at all feel reliable.

Very unreliable.

A: Is this what you take away from 2,800,000 characters!

Q: Norn-chan's wedding... This is... Teren-san reads this... wouldn't it turn into something bad?

A: Let those who will sing, sing.

Chapter 2 – Norn's Marriage Part 2

Part 1

Leave it to me.

I said that and began the preparations for the marriage.

Norn has given an affirmative response, the problem lies on Ruijerd's side.

He is an adult. If I asked him to marry my sister, he would most likely agree to it.

Thinking logically, marrying my family is also to the benefit of the Supard race.

Objectively, looking at my title, I am a trusted retainer of the Dragon God.

Since ancient times, marriage has been a way of deepening strength of an alliance.

With Ruijerd and Norn's marriage, the Supard race won't oppose the Dragon God faction, and we would no longer have to cast them away.

That's the proposal I have prepared.

It is a happy proposal.

But is that really alright?

Would that make Norn happy?

If Ruijerd married her thinking "It can't be helped", would Norn be satisfied?

When she realises that she isn't loved back, she will most likely break into tears.

Ruijerd is currently in Biheilil Kingdom, in charge of negotiations.

Which means that Norn wouldn't live in the Magic City Sharia any longer and would move to the Supard village.

After the incident in the Biheilil Kingdom, the whole village knows her name and face,

So the villagers would most likely accept her.

But, while living with a race other than your own, the common sense and daily lifestyle would be different. Would Norn be able to make a good living?

Worst case, Norn would be ostracised from the villagers.

I'm worried.

Very worried.

I asked my three wives for advice on the issue:

Roxy said: "If it's Norn, she'll be fine."

Eris said: "If it's Ruijerd, she'll be fine."

Sylphy said: "You're overthinking this."

But I am still worried.

I cannot allow Norn to meet with misfortune.

If Norn were to spend her days crying, Paul would glare at me in my dreams, and Zenith would be standing at my bedside slapping me awake from my peaceful sleep.

For both their sake, I must make sure Norn is on the road to happiness. Anything after that is up to Norn herself.

Of course, I understand that Ruijerd is a man worthy of my faith.

Even if he didn't love Norn from the bottom of his heart, I know that he would treat his wife properly.

He would care for her in a way that would never cause her to cry.

But I still have to confirm this with Ruijerd.

No matter how much Ruijerd might not love Norn.

Even if I must prepare some kind of event to have them get along better.

It should be possible to have Ruijerd's feelings for Norn turn around.
And then everything should reach a Happy End.

"...Alright."

And so, with that, I arrived at the Supard village in Biheilil Kingdom.

The Supard village, a few months into reconstruction, already looked complete.

The village was surrounded by large trees and on the inside, houses were lined up in rows. They hadn't harvested yet, but there were crops growing in the field.

When the Supard warriors saw me, they bowed their heads and kindly led me into the village.

After I gave an appropriate greeting in response, we quickly made our way to Ruijerd's house.

Of course, it was a new building.

Ruijerd held a rather significant standing in this village, so his house was large.

Yup, it's more than enough for two people to live.

"...Ruijerd-san, are you in?"

"Oh, Rudeus."

Ruijerd was inside.

It seemed he had just finished eating, he was sitting next to the fire place in the centre of the room with his eyes closed in some kind of state of meditation.

"..."

I went and sat down in front of him in seiza.

Ruijerd opened his eyes and gave me a puzzled look.

"...What's wrong?"

As he asked me, I turned my palm towards Ruijerd.

"Please wait a minute, I'm still choosing my words."

"...Alright."

And so I kept my silence.

While sitting there staring at the flickering fire, it felt like nearly an hour had passed.

It may sound odd, but I couldn't think of anything to start with.

I know what I must say.

Ruijerd's feeling for Norn.

Whether he likes her or dislikes her and what he thinks of her a marriage partner.

But I don't know how to word it.

How about:

'How do you feel about marrying Norn?'

No, marriage and feelings are separate issues. I can't forget that.

"..."

Ruijerd didn't try to start a conversation with me as I was sitting in silence.

He was waiting for me to start talking.

As if to say that there was absolutely no need to rush, that I should choose my words at ease.

I don't know whether or not he has some business to take care of, but he probably doesn't have anything to do.

Most likely, he acts this way towards Norn as well.

Or it's possible that Norn may think of this attitude of his a little irritating.

No, probably not.

The very reason Norn fell in love with Ruijerd was because of this

particular trait of him.

A partner not bothered by silence is a valuable thing.

Although I'm agonising a little over it now.

"...Right, recently, Norn has been making tea, she's gotten quite good."

"Hmm, Norn's tea."

I said that fishing for a response, and Ruijerd replied.

As I thought, he is somewhat interested in Norn.

So is the first condition clear...?

No, wait, when a man who has been sitting in silence for an hour says something, no matter what it's about, you would reply.

Don't rush.

It's about the flow of the conversation.

"It seems that because she's been making it at her workplace, she's gotten better."

"Is that so... When she came to the village before, it was good."

Ruijerd closed his eyes as if he was remembering something.

Is that so, it seems Ruijerd has already had Norn's tea.

It was good he says.

Putting it like that means that he would probably like to try it again.

Is he thinking something like "I'd like her to make me tea everyday..."?

Damn it, how should I ask him.

I want a choice list.

Is this how Orsted feels when he's talking with me?

Then should I just tell him outright?

How should I do it!? Just how should I ask!?

"It's not just her tea, her cooking isn't bad either."

While I was toiling, the conversation continued.

The conversation kept flowing.

The flow did not stop.

But wait, what did he just say?
Cooking?

"Have you tried it?"
"Yes."

Norn's cooking?
Even though I've never had it before?

"Is that so..."

I wonder what she made.
Beef stew or curry or omurice or maybe even beef stroganoff.
I want to try it too.
I want to eat it.
No, I have to set myself aside for now.

But in any case, if he likes her cooking then that means it's not hopeless.
Her cooking won't make one's mouth water, but it seems that she's not that awful.
And after they get married, we won't be seeing Ruijerd getting slim.

"Is something the matter with Norn?"

While I was thinking, Ruijerd had asked that.
It was a reasonable assumption.
No, I suddenly came in here with a serious face and started talking about Norn, what I want to talk about should be obvious.

"No... It's not that anything's particularly the matter, it was small talk."

But I'm still lacking the courage, resolve and guts to cut right to the point.
Do you like Norn? Do you love her? Do you Immediately want to hold her?

I'm afraid I would hear back: "I don't think of her like that at all, I can't marry her, even if I did I wouldn't be able to love her."

And if I did, I'm sure I'd be shocked.

And I'm sure I'd say something like "Just what about Norn doesn't suit you!" and pick a fight.

"It's just that, Norn is also growing up, and she already has a job. She still has plenty of time for children... But there isn't even any kind of male presence around her. I was just wondering if she'll be able to properly get married."

I said that and looked at Ruijerd.

Was that too blunt?

Ruijerd was looking at me suspiciously.

"...Isn't it a custom of the human race for the head of the family to pick marriage partners? Can you not decide who Norn's partner will be?"

"No, no, no, I'm not a noble. I think it would be a good thing for Norn to be able to find her own partner, yes."

I keep taking glances at Ruijerd, but his expression doesn't change.

No, a bit of severity has been added to his suspicious gaze.

Does he think I'm being irresponsible?

"But of course! If Norn comes along and bring back some good for nothing, I would drag him out to a desert and tell him "If you want Norn, you have to defeat me!"

I won't hand Norn over to some useless nobody!"

I make a hurried explanation.

While I push the matter with Norn it would be bad to have him think me to be irresponsible.

I don't know how it will be bad, but it will.

"So basically, if someone would like to marry Norn, they would have to defeat you?"

“No...! Something like that won't always be necessary! But! Just, hmm, right, guts... Yes, they would have to show me that they have the guts to do it.”

Someone who would lose their nerve under pressure and run away is no good.

I cannot entrust Norn to someone like that.

I also often lose my nerve, but I at least have no intention of running away.

They must have the guts to still fight even if they know they'll lose.

“Is that right?”

“Yes.”

Of course, Ruijerd is good on that front.

I keep glancing at Ruijerd to try and tell him what I mean, but his expression doesn't change.

Just his stone like gaze.

It seems he's not interested in Norn after all.

“...”

Well, of course.

To him, Norn is just a child.

From childhood, he had only known her as a frail little girl.

Ruijerd couldn't hold those kind of passionate feeling for a child. He's just that kind of man.

“Ruijerd-san... I'll get right to the point.”

“Ah.”

But I still have to hear it.

Even if it's a sad outcome for Norn.

I cannot decide based just on the look on his face

I am also prepared.

"What do you think of Norn?"

"..."

Ruijerd is silent.

He silently stares intensely at me.

His face is like stone, truly intense.

His suspicion completely disappears.

"..."

That's odd.

Normally Ruijerd would immediately reply in this kind of situation.

A child or a warrior.

It should be one of these two.

"...Do you like Norn?"

I am prepared.

The words that will begin it.

It may have been something that I shouldn't have said.

It may have been something that Norn should have said herself.

"I see."

As Ruijerd uttered those short words, he stood up as if he had decided something, and took his spear into his hand.

"...Rudeus, outside."

I understood the meaning of that action, and looked up at him.

Towards me still bewildered on the ground, Ruijerd once again, said in a harsh tone:

"Outside."

“...Yes.”

To that impact, denying a reply, I readily obeyed.

Part 2

We traveled roughly 10 minutes from the Supard village into the forest surrounding the Earth Dragon Valley.

Deep into the Forest.

Here in a small clearing, Ruijerd and I face each other.

“...”

Ruijerd had a stern face the entire time.

I might have made him mad.

After that conversation, it's no surprise that conveying Norn's feeling to him was a failure.

Or he might have just misunderstood.

As some form of political manoeuvre, I was presenting him with Norn.

If it's Ruijerd,

He'd say like a man, “As her brother you must protect Norn. You mustn't use her to curry favour.”

It's because he's reliable like that, that I can trust him.

“You already noticed it a while back.”

But what came out of Ruijerd's mouth was outside of my predictions.

“...?”

What have I noticed?

I, who am currently standing here in confusion?

I, who cannot even guess what is right by any standard?

“What?”

“Don’t say any more, here I come!”

It seems there’s no use in talking.

I had no reason to have my precognition eye open, and without it, I had no way to see Ruijerd’s movements.

“—Wah!”

Ruijerd closed in in an instant and I was thrown to the ground.

But opposed to ten years ago, I knew what to do.

Thanks to my regular training, I managed a last minute response.

Ruijerd came at me with his spear from the right, and I raised the right hand of the Magic Armor MK. II to guard.

But Ruijerd then came around with a low kick which I blocked, and then used that leg as a pivot and kicked around with his other leg to knock me down.

“How’s that?”

Ruijerd thrust his spear at the back of my neck and looked down at me expressionlessly.

“I concede. Splendid skills.”

I have no idea what’s going on.

But I can’t say anything else.

I don’t think he’d stab my neck, but it’s obviously my loss.

“Is this sufficient?”

What’s he talking about?

Is what sufficient?

“Isn’t it me that’s insufficient?”

“...Then, is this enough?”

I don't know what's enough but in this situation he's not lacking anything.

No matter what I say it would still be uncouthly.

“This is enough.”

As I said that, Ruijerd, moved his spear out of the way.

I raised my body up and sat down.

And looked up at Ruijerd with with my pathetic face.

“Then as promised, I get your sister.”

And then Ruijerd said something odd.

He gets my sister?

What about my sister?

Was there that kind of promise?

Huh?

What were we talking about?

I seem to have lost sight of the conversation.

“It's just as you suspected.”

What did I suspect?

“I have fallen in love with Norn.”

“Fallen in love...”

I desperately tried to remember the meaning of that phrase.

If I remember correctly... It's a feeling. A feeling of longing for someone.

“...Huh?”

Which means that Ruijerd likes Norn?

No, wait, don't jump ahead.

Misunderstanding are my weakness.

"So Ruijerd-san, you like Norn?"

".....I like her."

Am I being pranked?

Should I happily say, "Then I'll let you marry Norn".

And then when I go and bring Norn along in a white kimono, Ruijerd will come along with a giant billboard saying "Huge Success".

That would me a huge mental shock. Norn might even kill herself.

It has to be Hitogami's doing.

Damn it! For Ruijerd to be Hitogami's apostle!

"Is this some kind of joke? Or maybe a punishment game?"

"It is not a joke."

Ruijerd looked slightly offended by that.

That's right, Ruijerd isn't the type to joke around.

Especially at times like this.

"From when?"

"Several months ago, around the time of the battle in the Biheilil Kingdom. I would like to hold closely, the woman who so devotedly looked after me."

They did look like they were getting along well together back then.

It couldn't have just been Norn's one sided feelings.

I thought I would be pushing Ruijerd into a marriage, but it seems like it wasn't like that at all.

"Of course, I didn't intend to make a move."

Which means that if she wasn't my sister, he would have made a move.

Normally he would have made a move.
According to Orsted, that's how it went in the previous loops.

"But you had realised. Which is why you came around with that sudden conversation."

"..."

That's not why.
All I knew was that Norn liked Ruijerd.
Whoever realised that it was mutual wasn't me.
There's no way I'm that sharp.
I'm the thickheaded type.
My cutting ability is the same as that of a flail.

"I'll say it again. I would like to marry Norn Greyrat."

Ruijerd said that and pointed his spear at my neck.

"For that purpose, I have shown you my guts."

So that's what this is.
This is happening because I said that.
A duel to test courage.
But I don't even have the strength needed to witness the extent of
Ruijerd's guts.

Well, there's no point in confirming something like that now.
But something like that.
Being more confused than you thought.
And things advancing too well.

Is this a trap?
Just who is trying to entrap who?
I don't get it.
What's going on?

"Umm... Are you alright with your previous wife or your son?"

I don't know and therefore continue questions.

I said that while sitting down and looking up at Ruijerd, and he answered.

"I told you before. I won't be dragged around by my past anymore."

I do remember him saying it was because there was no one there for him.

Ruijerd looked at me sitting and put down his spear and sat too.

I changed to seiza.

With that, our gazes were the same height.

"Meaning..."

Ruijerd said just that, and hung his head with a difficult face.

"..."

He kept silent.

Having me suddenly appear and exposing his feeling, awakening his resolution, and he brought me all the way out here.

But he was always bad with words.

And on top of that, he probably had a lot of things he wanted to say.

"..."

I was in too much of a hurry.

Even with what Orsted had said, there was no need to immediately set these two up.

I should have used a more indirect plan to bring the two of them together.

Like having Norn kidnapped and Ruijerd rescuing her...

No, the only one who would be charmed by that would be Norn,

Ruijerd might fall into a trap.

Wait, if I did that, Norn would hate me.

"I would eventually marry a human."

While I was worrying away, Ruijerd said something.
When would eventually be?

"What do you mean by that?"

"Thanks to you, the Supard race is headed towards restoration.
The people of the Biheilil Kingdom and the Ogres have kindly accepted us.

Eventually, like the Ogre race, the countries Royalty and nobility would send someone to create a blood relation with.

And it seems I was deemed to be the most suitable match."

"Hmm."

So there was something like that going on...

Well there usually was.

Ruijerd's position was something like the assistant of the Chieftain.

But as a Hero of the previous war, he was looked up to.

The village idol... may be a little off but he's something like a guardian deity.

Ruijerd would end up marrying some Biheilil noblewoman.

The Supard race would enter a position of guardians of the Biheilil Kingdom and they would be able to rest easy.

"But if I had the choice... Rudeus, your family would be better."

With those words, I felt warm from the bottom of my heart.

A good relationship with Biheilil Kingdom would be to their benefit.

I'm sure that it would be much more beneficial as opposed to being in my family.

But Ruijerd chose my family.

I was chosen!

No, not me.

Not good, I almost became Girdaus.

But as I was thinking that, I realised something.

“Is Norn alright with you?”

“What do you mean by that?”

Ruijerd is suspicious.

“Norn is... How do I say it, quite selfish.

And without thinking about the conciseness, say some awful things.

If you for example had some kind of lovers quarrel, she may end up saying something insensitive about your past.”

“...”

Words that I didn't expect came out.

That was odd.

I'm supposed to be supporting Norn, I should be pointing out Norn's good parts.

But all that comes out are the bad points.

“It seems like she can do housework, but it can't be called her speciality.

She can study, but she can't put very much of it to practical use, she fails at most things the first time.

At Sharia she can cope with most things easily, but at the Supard village, there would be plenty of things she wouldn't be able to figure out.

I'm sure she would end up causing trouble for you.”

No, this isn't what I want to say.

In my house there's another young woman.

For example, Aisha.

Honestly, Aisha is far more excellent than Norn.

She can do housework and look after children.

She's better to the extent that there's nothing Norn can do that Aisha can't.

When I think about it like that, I can't help but think “Is Norn alright”.

I want to root for Norn.

But I also like Ruijerd.

It's because I want these two to be happy that I try to think of how to make sure no one is dissatisfied.

“—But that's the result of her trying her very hardest.”

What interrupts my words is Ruijerd.

“I know. Norn's bad points and her good points.”

I lost my words and Ruijerd looked as if he was pressing me for answers.

“You know it too don't you?”

“Of course.”

Norn has plenty of good things about her.

I'm not that well informed on Norn as of late.

But I know what kind of person she has become.

Having lost to Aisha, she became far more docile than necessary.

She became far less hysteric and began to get along with Aisha.

Taking care of someone is good.

It wasn't so much at home, but her classmates and juniors looked up to her.

At her 15th birthday, plenty of Norn's friends came.

Even now, some of her school's underclassmen still come over for help over studying or the student council comes to ask for advice.

Norn goes at everything with the utmost effort.

And as a result of trying her hardest at everything, although she can't be the best, she can at least somehow do the things she isn't good at.

Because Norn has plenty of things she isn't good at, she can't do things in an instant compared to others.

And so compared to Aisha, there's a world of difference.

But other people don't matter.

With her own effort, she steadily advances.
And I'm sure that, from here on out, she'll continue like that.

Norn is just that kind of girl.
A very good girl.
A little sister I can be proud of.

And Ruijerd also knew that.
He knew that Norn is someone that always tried her hardest.
There's no need for me to say it.
And even Norn's bad parts.
He had known for a long time, and accepted it.
Taking it all in and still holding feeling for her.

"...Whenever it may be, will you always protect Norn?"
"Yes."

Ruijerd gave a reassuring nod.
Right, if it's him, he'd protect Norn until he died.

"When you get married, and Norn is surrounded by a different race,
separated from her family, and think she's in trouble, will you support
her?"
"Yes."

Ruijerd gave a reassuring nod.
Right, if it's him, he'd support Norn until he died.

"If Norn is feeling down and says something bad, will you remind her
of her courtesy?"
"Yes."

Ruijerd gave a reassuring nod.
Right, if it's him, he would comfort Norn and gently hold her.

"Norn is a Millis believer... Can you promise not to cheat?"

"Yes."

Ruijerd gave a reassuring nod.

Right, it's obvious. Ruijerd wouldn't lose himself to a woman's wiles.

"Norn is, she's a bigger crybaby than me, is that ok?"

"Yes. So don't you start crying."

I began crying my eyes out.

His words were short but his tone was resolute. His face was serious and his gaze, earnest.

"There's no problem. I understand."

I suddenly remembered.

During the journey across the central continent after the teleport incident.

I remained at ease by Ruijerd's side.

No matter what kind of demonic creature, I could rest, assured that he would protect us.

Of course, he's not that great at taking care of things other things than demons, but as a person, that can't be helped.

Nobody's perfect.

Norn can simply make up for the things Ruijerd can't do.

And I'm sure Norn, as she is now, can do that.

She has already proven that.

If she couldn't then Ruijerd wouldn't have said that he desired her.

While thinking like that, my shoulder grew weak.

I was relieved.

"Please take care of my sister."

Finally, I lowered my head.



Author's Q&A

Q: It's because of practice that she can cook well, but how did Rudi, after living in the same house for so many years, not try it?

A: If he had asked she would have made something for him, but all the practise was probably done somewhere else.

Like at school.

Q: I'm so happy that I feel that something's going to go wrong...

A: Even though this is a redundancy chapter!?

Q: It's good to cry isn't it.

A: I don't mind it.

Q: I think this belongs on the daily rankings. But if the people that see Mushoku Tensei and then go read the original are only a few, I think it would be a waste.

A: The redundancy chapter is just an extra so it's ok.

Q: The light novel manga deal that I bought has arrived.

A: So it arrived!

That's good...

Q: A secret extra chapter... It's really great.

A: That this story became three chapters, it surprised me too...

Chapter 3 – Norn's Marriage Final

Part 1

— Norn's Perspective —

It has been decided that I will be marrying Ruijerd-san.

It was quite a sudden experience.

I answered earnestly to my brother's various enquiries, after which he pulled Ruijerd-san along with him in no less than 10 days. Ruijerd-san then confessed his love for me and asked my hand in marriage.

The talk moved forward as my mind was still in a daze, the marriage ceremony was to be carried out after 10 more days.

Brother and Ruijerd-san were steadily making progress.

My job was to create a marriage dress along with the Superd women. A very Superd like dress which looked similar to what Ruijerd-san always wore.

It seemed that the marriage would be carried out in Superd style.

I wished that I would get to do it in Milis style, but stressing the fact that I would be the one going to Ruijerd-san's place as his bride, I wasn't reluctant. All the Superd people were good-natured as well, and I honestly didn't want anything more than this.

Ruijerd-san would probably not like being kissed on his forehead in public.

Brother told me that he would take care of it and I could only be grateful

for that.

But, maybe, if I only wished for just the **Milis Necklace** then maybe...
Should I ask for it... ?

I'm pretty sure this might be my last chance to request something selfish from my brother.

"..."

I was currently in the middle of clearing out my room as I was pondering about such things.

The room that I have been living in almost everyday together with Aisha after being brought along by Ruijerd-san. Since I had been living in the dormitory for so long my attachment with the dorm room was stronger than this one.

But I realized that various memories dwelled within this room as I was clearing things out one-by-one.

The doll of Ruijerd-san created by Zanoba-senpai. I was very moved the first time I saw it and ended up asking for it, after which I placed it in my dorm room. Even Nii-san did not say anything.

Someway or another, gazing at this doll became my daily habit. It wasn't an exact replica of Ruijerd-san but it was still similar to him. I kept wishing that I could see him again, watching this doll everyday.

And then the wooden sword. The sword I received from Eris-neesan which I swung almost everyday because of the training I received from her.

I hadn't really progressed that much, and I knew that I didn't have much talent for it, but it was fine.

Swinging a sword is quite fun and it wasn't like I wished to be the world's strongest. No one in Sharia said something ridiculous like 'You don't have talent so forget about it!'. Of course, that list also included Nii-san and even Eris-neesan, Sylphy-neesan and Roxy-neesan... not even Zanoba-senpai or Cliff-senpai said something like that. Even though each and everyone of them were extremely gifted, they didn't say anything.

I now know how wonderful a thing they did for me and I am grateful for that. And I also understand that even though I did not have any talent, giving your all and working hard is what really mattered. If not for that I would have never become the Student Council President.

In the Student Council where I became the President, none of them had any talent. To some teachers, and even during the first part of the year, we were known as the Stupid Student Council. But only Vice Principal Jinas said 'The students are getting along well, even better than during Ariel's Presidency'.

Actually, it seemed that crimes and violence among students were few during my time as President...

It was possible that I just got lucky, but I think that it was *because* we didn't have any talent.

It was because we were dumb, we could be considerate of the students. Because we were dumb, the students could be considerate of us. They would think that they had no choice but to help us out.

If in a school of over 10,000 people, if they know that a student council of little more than 10 people are still giving their best, it's only natural that those 10,000 students would start to be more considerate.

I had also stopped wearing my school uniform, which now stay in the closet.

If I recall, I heard from someone that Nanahoshi-san designed this uniform. Before that, students wore tattered clothing. But everybody was already wearing the uniforms or robes by the time I enrolled.

Everyone wore the same uniform, be it a student with a scary face or a bewitching woman.

I thought it was because everyone wore the same uniforms that I had so many friends. Were it not for the uniforms, I wouldn't have been able to make so many friends.

Just by looking at the Demon race or a Beast race, I couldn't even approach them as I would be too scared by their appearance.

Well something like that is beyond me, really.

But even Aisha mimicked us by adopting the uniform system in her

Mercenary group, which led me to believe that putting on the same uniform on every student was a very effective move.
'Cause even that Aisha ended up doing it.

And finally, father's sword that was now hanging on the wall. The sword he used almost all the time before marrying mother. The sword given to me by Nii-san when he was distributing father's belongings. There was one more sword given to Aisha, but he quickly took it away saying that he had to use it in the war. Father's armor laid in mother's room.

I used to pray to this sword each time something happened. Father wasn't really a Milis believer and was someone who would scowl at the very mention of it, but I liked doing it anyway. If he were still alive, he would surely scold me for this but I didn't think that he would hate it. Since even father tried his best at things. Because there are times when we fail even if we work hard which is true for me and even Nii-san... that's why I liked doing it. And thus today as well, I prayed to my father.

"I am going to get married now, father."

No, it was more like a report than a prayer I guess. Nii-san said this. It seemed that even he visited father's grave to report things. Even though he's such a busy person... He's very diligent.

"Nii-san has been diligently playing your role, father. Even though I think that I am a burden to him, he's still doing his best for my sake without raising any complaints whatsoever.
... I can't thank him enough for what he's done for me."

I intended to report about my marriage but ended up giving my thanks to Nii-san. I thought of Nii-san as someone who protected me by filling in for father who died and mother who became that way. Of course, he's a very busy person so he couldn't keep his eye on me all the time which made me thought he looked after me unwillingly after father's death.

I now know that it wasn't like that.

I can't explain it more properly but Nii-san seriously tried his best to fill in for both father and mother.

I had a memory, a very old and distant one. It was a memory of right after I had been born. Of course it was vague and I didn't have a good grip on it. It was a time when I couldn't even reply in short words properly. It was a memory where... I had a contest with Aisha.

I didn't know why we were having a contest but I remember that mother was there at the goal line. And of course I was defeated by Aisha. Aisha reached mother with a terrific speed and then mother hugged Aisha and praised her.

I cried after watching that. Mother was far from me and I thought that she was stolen away by Aisha, that I wouldn't be receiving any praise and so I cried. And then mother said "Norn, I'm waiting right here for you, so come to me." She said that and waited for me until I finally managed to reach her and then she praised me.

Nii-san was also someone who waited for me. No matter how slow I was he still waited for me. He persevered, even at times when he was confused or smiled wryly, he never once abandoned me and always waited for me.

He's that kind of person. That's why I think that he seriously tried to fill in mother's shoes as well.

"..."

It's the same with the marriage preparations as well. Nii-san did all of it. I did think that if father was still alive then he would have done the same things as Nii-san.

He might've not liked Ruijerd-san though and would've gotten into a quarrel with him but if it came to marriage then he would've said "Leave it to me" and would've done the preparations in secret.

Since it seemed like the same thing happened during mother's marriage.

“...”

While thinking about such things I continued clearing out my room and in no time, I was finished. It was never a room that had much in it, but now that my personal belongings were no longer here it was completely empty. It seemed like this room would be used by Lucy-chan and other kids but it should be fine if it's cleared out this much.

Now all I had to do was to take my belongings and some keepsakes and go to Ruijerd-san's house. To Ruijerd-san's house in the Superd village.

Honestly, it felt like I was in a dream or something. Marrying that Ruijerd-san that I admired for so long since way back then. My heart was beating like crazy. It seemed it was the same for Sylphy-neesan, starting a married life with the person you love gives birth to expectations mixed with tension.

Ruijerd-san was way older than me but after I married him then I would have to do what Nii-san and Sylphy-neesan and the others do. I knew how it's done but I didn't really put into practise. I'm a little nervous. I wonder if he'll be gentle. I wonder if I'll be able to do it properly.

But my mind tilted more towards the expectations rather than tension. I was really nervous. That day, the moment I heard Ruijerd-san's name I immediately asked Nii-san to go ahead with the marriage proposal, I was really glad about that. I thought that from the bottom of my heart.

“Hey, Norn-ane... do you have a moment?”

Suddenly, I heard the knocking on the door. There was only one person who would call me Norn-ane.

It was Aisha.

“Yeah, what's the matter?”

“Umm... can I talk to you for a bit?”

Aisha entered the room with a somewhat fidgety look and closed the door behind her.

That was unusual. It's possible that this might be the first time I saw Aisha acting like this towards me.

"How about we sit down there?"

"Okay."

With a suggestive tone she sat on the bed. I put my luggage away which held my belongings which I was going to take to Ruijerd-san's place, and sat on a chair.

"Uhh... Norn-ane, congratulations on your marriage... no, engagement?"

"Thank you."

Now that I recalled, when Nii-san announced my marriage, I was then congratulated by various people but never by Aisha.

"It's a somewhat strange feeling. That Norn-ane is getting married."

"Did you come here to say only that?"

"No, not that... umm... Norn-ane, how does it feel to get married?"

Aisha wasn't facing my way. She was averting her eyes away as if trying to ask something that shouldn't be asked.

"How... meaning?"

"Why are you getting married, Norn-ane?"

... Ah, now I remember. Aisha had said something like that to me before. That "Even though you know you don't have any talent, why would you still try?"

She was the same as usual little sister.

Still, those things sounded like sarcasm or insults back in the day but I've come to realise that those were quite the different things. Because Aisha is Aisha, she has so much talent in so many things, she ends up getting puzzled in various ways. Because she ends up doing everything easily, she can't understand someone who tries to do something which

they cannot do.

No... words spoken by Aisha back in the day were mixed with a considerable amount of sarcasm. That's why I really disliked her in those days.

But that dislike had already gotten away.

I wonder just when the sarcasm got out of Aisha... I am not sure right now but I do think that she changed a lot after Lucy-chan was born.

"Even if you ask me why... well for once this marriage has meaning to it, and I love Ruijerd-san as well."

"What's it like to love someone?"

"... A desire to live together or the desire to hug your lover or be hugged back, those kind of feelings gush up naturally."

"I love my Onii-chan but is that the wrong kind of love?"

"That's... I don't know because I'm not you."

"Right..."

After that Aisha stretched her legs out while sitting on the bed and fell on it with a thud.

"I really don't get it..."

While flapping her legs around, Aisha groaned in puzzlement.

"These days, both Pursena and Rinia talk about nothing but marriage, it's so annoying. They keep talking about how I'll miss my chance or how I can't compromise after having come this far. Is marriage such a desperate thing to do? Do I have to do it? Is there really a need to do it theoretically? But it isn't like everyone is thinking that far right?"

"Do you not want to marry, Aisha?"

"I don't know whether I want to or not."

"Don't you have any one you like?"

"Nope."

I decided on marrying Onii-chan when I was a child but even he seems to think differently of that idea, but then I can't even imagine leaving

this house...”

Aisha was all over Nii-san ever since she was a small child. She was like that since I met her for the first time in Millis, around the time when father recovered and began to work splendidly for a short while. Honestly, no one really knew that Aisha was my sister. It was like if you asked someone from the hostel, they would go “Ah, so she’s from a previous marriage”. Even Lilya-san said to see her as a fellow maid rather than my sister.

I wonder just when I actually started to accept her as my own sister. Probably around the time when we started going to Milis school together or possibly when we travelled to Sharia with Ruijerd-san and Ginger-san.

I couldn’t recall it now but I did know that I had already acknowledged her as my sister when we started our new lifestyle in Sharia.

“Norn-ane, just how are you feeling right now?”

“I... feel blessed.”

“Blessed? What kind of feeling is that?”

“It’s hard to explain but, how do I put it, I feel like nothing could go wrong... I understand that it’s not going to be nothing but good times from here on out, but I feel like from here on out, I don’t have to doubt the good things anymore, something like that I guess.”

By the time I finished talking, Aisha had already sat up and was staring at me.

And after a short pause, she said :

“That’s what you call being blessed?”

“Seems to me that sort of thing...”

“But I feel like that almost all the time?”

“Then, aren’t you always being blessed?”

As I said that, Aisha fell on the bed once again.

"Being blessed... I don't think so. I'm kinda envious. I feel like I've lost to you for the first time."

"I don't really feel like I've won though..."

"Nah, I lost. I probably lost to you, Norn-ane."

That was unexpected.

Never in my entire life, no matter what I did, was there a test where I won over Aisha.

And it wasn't just Aisha.

Even in school I wasn't someone special. I only had a 45% winning chance in a mock magic battle and averaged out at 80 marks in all of my tests. Of course, being the top student was only a trifling matter.

If I studied and had a contest with Aisha who didn't study then I would definitely win once or twice but as the matches continued 10 or 20 times I would start to lose all of them. Aisha had a knack for knowing things, her growth was fast and she was good at gripping the essence.

That Aisha felt at loss...

Despite that I didn't feel all that happy. It's probably because I never really gave it my all because I never intended to compete with her. And it's definitely not like I'm marrying so that I can have an upper hand on Aisha.

"Listen, Norn-ane."

"What is it?"

"Can I come visit you once in a while after you get married?"

This was unexpected as well. It was probably because I had the impression that Aisha was keeping her distance from me for quite a while. She didn't show this kind of attitude when caring for Nii-san's kids but even while I was alone or had nothing to do she wouldn't approach me that much.

"Yeah... of course."

"When you have kids, let me hold them okay?"

“Okay.”

Kids...

I've heard various things from Sylphy-neesan. Though I think that it's still too early for me, I've still resolved myself for when the time comes. Well, I've resolved myself for whatever that comes before it anyway.

Aisha was taking care of Nii-san's kids even now. Even Sylphy-ane thanks her a lot for helping out. Now that I think about it if I left the house then I would have to raise them alone. I'm worried about that. I wonder if I'd be able to do the job...

Sylphy-neesan would probably say “You'll be just fine, Norn-chan”, Roxy-neesan would probably be as uneasy as me and Eris-neesan would just say “Raise them however you want”.
I'm worried.

“If you would be so kind to teach me about child rearing, I'll be glad.”

“Leave that to me!”

“Okay... fufufu.”

I laughed. Aisha's smile made me somewhat happy and thus I laughed.

That day I chatted with Aisha till late night. Chats that didn't hold any meaning or just idle complaints with no conclusion carried on endlessly.

And then, the next day, I took my belongings and moved to Ruijerd-san's house.

Part 2

— Rudeus' Perspective —

Norn's and Ruijerd's marriage was to be performed in the Superd village in Superd style.

The villagers gathered with each of their own cooking under the full moon and congratulated the bride and groom while having a feast together.

I wasn't one of the villagers but I still participated by bringing along my cooking and my family as if it was natural. Since we were Norn's family, they obviously couldn't say no. No one denied us. Rather, they all welcomed us.

The cooking was prepared by Lilya and Aisha.

It seemed that Aisha held some complex feelings regarding Norn's marriage. Ever since the marriage had been decided, she was seen quite often lying on the sofa rolling around, deep in thought and then getting scolded by Lilya. Which reminded me that a few days before the marriage, the two of them were talking about something till late night in Norn's room. I didn't know what they were talking about... but even she might have some things to think upon.

Since it definitely wasn't like she wouldn't give her blessings to Norn. Even the cooking that was brought for the wedding saw no signs of shoddiness, instead she put all of her skills into making it. She collected the ingredients from Milis and Asura and made a huge fruitcake. We were worried whether or not the Superds would be delighted by something sweet but then Roxy gave it her seal of approval. Well, it's possible that she just likes sweet things...

Since it was pretty much Norn's most precious moment, all of the family members attended. The small kids Ars and Sieg were here as well, and of course Leo, Jiro and Beat too. Not just the family, the perpetrator who made this marriage a reality, Orsted, too was here stealthily hidden into a corner.

Added to that, we invited Norn's friends from Sharia as well, who were happy to attend. The Student Council and Norn's underclassmen, after hearing about Norn's marriage, requested with their heads bowed that they be allowed to attend as well.

In the open place of the Superd village, the humans who were attending the marriage while shivering in fear was a pitiable sight to see the least

but...

Well, after seeing the happy and blessed Norn their tension gradually wore off and they had enough composure to pour sake to Norn when the banquet was reaching its climax.

Yep, Norn looked happy.

At home, or rather in front of me, Norn looked sullen almost all the time but now that she was sitting beside Ruijerd, her face was floating with a bashful smile the whole time.

Moreover, each time Norn tried to look at Ruijerd and Ruijerd who sensed it tried to look back, she quickly looked downwards as her face got red like a tomato.

Her body was dressed in the traditional bridal costume made by the Superd females, in front of plenty of cookery, her face grew red and a smile floated each time she saw Ruijerd.

Also, it was good that we prepared a Milis style wedding to include in the middle of the actual ceremony as a surprise. We pretended that a change of clothing was necessary and dressed up Ruijerd and Norn in snow white clothing. By the time they returned, Cliff who had hidden himself as a surprise guest, started reading the Milis ritual prayer.

In the end, when the necklace prepared beforehand was put on Norn by Ruijerd, Norn's face went full red as Ruijerd went down on his knees only for Norn to kiss his forehead clumsily.

Norn had a surprised face the whole time but by the time it ended she was smiling in tears. That smile seemed to be incredibly happy. If this is not a blessing then I don't know what is.

"Norn-ane looks so beautiful."

Aisha called that Norn beautiful. Was it her attire that she considered beautiful or was it her happiness, I did not know, but Aisha was looking enviously at Norn.

"Your time will come too, Aisha."

"I won't be doing this."

An immediate reply. Aisha did not wish to be married. For me, I would like to send Aisha away in the same fashion as Norn but...

Well, marriage isn't life so I wouldn't mind even if she didn't want to.

"..."

Nevertheless Norn was a bride now huh. I'm deeply moved.

When we met in Milis she was so small and aggressive. After enrolling in school, she even confined herself in her dorm room. A troublesome child, a hopelessly clumsy child, I had such impression of her and yet before I knew she entered the Student Council, became a fine President and worked diligently, was idolized by many of her underclassmen and was now married.

"...Kiiin."

Reflexively, the inside of my nose became prickly and made a sharp noise.¹

Dear Paul-sama.

Norn is incredibly beautiful, she has been raised into a good girl.

Can you break out from your gravestone?

No, there's no way you'd be able to.

If not then please come as quickly as possible.

"Onii-chan, don't cry at a time like this."

"I'm not crying. *sobs*"

"Right... if you can watch her from afar then why not at least say a few words to her?"

"Nh, nh~"

The banquet was in full swing so the attendees were giving their blessings to the bride and groom in order. Though there wasn't this kind of custom in Superd style... Cliff might've said something.

Norn was receiving their blessings with a smile. She was having such a happy time. Would it be fine if I approached her in such a time like this? I felt like it would be fine just watching her from afar.

"Would Norn be displeased about it?"

"She won't."

"Really?"

"Really."

"... Won't you come with me?"

"Why not go along with everyone?"

Well, it's not like I'm worried about that. I'm worried how I'm going to react. I'd absolutely end up crying. I would end up crying in Norn's precious moment. I'd end up making crying sounds ungracefully. Everyone would point at Norn's big brother as the one who cried at her wedding, a crybaby.

No, that's fine but just the other day I was being told by Ruijerd not to cry so I didn't want to cry here of all places. I wanted to at least cry in Sylphy's lap when I reached home.

"Got it. Then let's go."

But I must go. With everyone in tow, I approached Norn.

"Ah."

When Norn saw us approaching she tightly closed her lips for an instant but immediately turned it to a smile, she might have something to say. I wonder what, I'm scared. As I was thinking, Sylphy overtook me as I got cold feet and was the first to stand in front of Norn.

"Norn-chan, congratulations on your marriage."

"Thank you very much. Sylphy-neesan."

"There will be times when uneasiness or tension happens between the two of you but most of it will be manageable so talk it through with

Ruijerd-san properly and give it your best."

"Yes. I'll try my best."

Sylphy said that and gave a smile in return, then stepped aside. The next to come was Eris.

"Norn, congratulations."

"Yes, thank you very much. Eris-neesan."

"Don't forget to do your daily sword practice okay? Ruijerd is strong but it'll come handy when you have to guard yourself."

"Yes, I'll make sure to carve it in my heart."

Eris nodded in satisfaction and then stepped aside. And then moved to Ruijerd's side and started talking about something. "I won't forgive you if you can't protect Norn." or so she's saying. After Eris, Roxy came out in front.

"Norn-san, my deepest and most sincere congratulations."

"Thank you very much, Roxy-sensei."

"Stop calling me sensei now... no, make it the last time so allow me the privilege of imparting you with some knowledge. People would say this and that about marriage between different races but there's no need to give it any heed. If you act ordinarily everyday then people would come to admit it before long."

"... yes, sensei!"

After that Lilya and Zenith were now in front.

"Miss Norn, my most sincere congratulations."

"Lilya-san, mother... thank you very much."

"I think that I wasn't a pleasant existence for you, Miss Norn. Aisha made you sad on numerous occasion but all the responsibility lies with me and I am to be blamed for..."

"No, there's nothing like that. Lilya-san, you were my mother as well. Aisha too, is my sister. There were certainly some bad things but I never really thought of it as your fault but rather something that was ordinary."

"...If you say something like that then, gusu... uuu..."

Lilya was keeping quiet but ended up crying anyway. Really, Lilya just keeps on crying these days. Zenith was gently brushing her back, but after a short while Zenith casually moved to Norn's side.

"Mother?"

"..."

Zenith smiled ever so slightly and took Norn's hand. With both hands, as if to cover up something precious, she tenderly clutched them.

"M-mo-mother..."

Zenith did not say anything. But it was transmitted. The feelings were transmitted to Norn and tears started spilling out in volume from both of Norn's eyes. I quickly understood that she was trying her best to not cry before.

"Mother, th-thank you... very much... uuu... for everything you've... done until now."

No longer could Norn make out proper sentences. By the time it was my turn Norn's face was already all sloppy because of tears and dripping nose.

Even though it was her precious moment, her marriage...

"Nii-san."

I took out a handkerchief from my pocket at once and held it against Norn's nose.

"Alright, go ahead and blow now."

"I can do it myself!"

Norn snatched the handkerchief from me and blowed her nose in it.

After that, confused about what to do with the now dirty handkerchief, I took it from her and put it in my pocket. And then once again I faced her.

“Uhh... Norn... congratulations.”

“Nii-san...”

With her lips tightly sealed she looked up at me.

I wonder what should I say. I had prepared to say something but I've completely forgotten all of it now.

“Nii-san, umm. Thank you very much for up till now. I'm now happy. But I think that it was all because of you that I'm this happy right now.”

Norn said as I was hesitating.

She said that she was now happy. I could tell it from seeing.

“No... it's because you worked hard, Norn.”

“I didn't work hard. Even this marriage, you did all the work for it.”

“If you hadn't work hard then you wouldn't have said that you wanted to marry Ruijerd.”

Ruijerd is a soldier person or a child person.

If Norn had stayed the same child she used to be, then this would have ended in complete failure.

“But I think that it's because of you, Nii-san. Thank you very much from the bottom of my heart.”

When Norn started to sob again, I took out the handkerchief from my pocket, but when I realised that handkerchief was all wet I was quickly presented with a different handkerchief from my side. It was Aisha. I took that handkerchief and wiped Norn's tears.

“Norn.”

“Yes.”

“Umm, I can't say it properly and most of the important things have

already been said by others so I don't have anything else left to say to you but..."

"Yes."

"There will be hard times or painful times in the future but... keep working hard and umm, stay happy forever."

Strangely enough, tears did not flow. I thought that I would definitely cry and I was moved to tears not too long ago but by the time I finished talking my tears had already withdrawn. I stood in front of Norn with only a proud feeling.

"...Yes!"

And then, Norn stopped crying as well, with a huge smile on her face she nodded in agreement.

Part 3

And thus, Norn was now married.

Ruijerd and Norn were a couple with a huge difference in their height and age but their compatibility was perfect, as such a child was born in just a year.

A child with a face exactly like Norn's, green hair and a cute tail, having a gem on her forehead, a female Superd.

That girl was named 『Luicelia Superdia』 .

When Orsted heard that name, he made an absurdly scary face. With an absurdly scary face, he smiled.

Looking at that smile, which gave me goosebumps, I realized. I realized that it was the name that was in agreement with his memories.

Author's Q&A

Q. This is redundant!?

Wouldn't it be alright to include it in the main volume?

A. I had originally planned for Gisu to be gathering companions during the Cliff Chapter, and to write the Redundancy Chapter during the Organization Chapter, and then for Gisu to betray them at the end of the Redundancy chapter...

It was that kind of flow that I had planned.

But time flowed a bit faster than I had hoped and Gisu betrayed them at the end of the Clif Chapter and we ended up with what we have now.

Q. Is the Redundancy chapter in chronological order.

A. It's currently undecided.

It's possible that the order may be mixed up.

Q. One question: How did they bring Beet along?

I'm pretty sure he was planted outside the door...

A. Of course he was transferred into a plant pot.